

INDEX.

| | PAGE | | PAGE |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| A Chat with Miss Fanny Davies ... | 159 | Music Publishing ... | 154 |
| A Church Official ... | 175 | Nerve Enough for Anything ... | 166 |
| A First Lesson in the Rudiments of Music ... | 122 | New Pianoforte Systems... .. | 146, 171 |
| A Model Pianoforte Lesson ... | 43, 76 | Notes upon Notes ... | 58, 66, 82, 98, 170 |
| A Sweet Singer ... | 166 | Occupation ... | 102 |
| A Trifle Mixed ... | 126 | On Execution ... | 115 |
| A Winter's Tale ... | 10 | On Playing in Public ... | 22 |
| Advantages of Blind Musicians over their Seeing | | On the Art of Singing ... | 36 |
| Brehren ... | 186 | On the Manner of Studying a Piece ... | 60 |
| Answers to Correspondents ... | 16, 47, 64, 96 | On Unusually Difficult Compositions ... | 181 |
| Anxiety for Fame... .. | 70 | Organ Accompaniments to Oratorios ... | 75 |
| Are Organists Good Pianists ... | 117 | Organ Playing, Some Considerations of ... | 54 |
| Art ... | 127 | Oratorio ... | 133 |
| Art of Learning Music, The ... | 92 | Origin of some Nuptial Ceremonies ... | 30 |
| Bells ... | 125 | Our Motto... .. | 26 |
| Bizet ... | 8 | Patti's Triumph ... | 176 |
| Carlyle ... | 99 | Paralyzed Faculties ... | 74 |
| Cheerfulness ... | 150 | Physic and Physique ... | 72 |
| Chevalier's New Song ... | 152 | Pieces worth Study ... | 136 |
| Chinese Music ... | 144 | Pranks of Opera Singers... .. | 112 |
| Comic Songs ... | 181 | Pretty Pieces and Songs... .. | 13, 28 |
| Concentration ... | 178 | Principle ... | 143 |
| Co-operative Composers ... | 7 | Prize Competitions:—8, 14, 20, 24, 29, 38, 45, 61, 62, 78, 79, 87, 88, 108, 123, 124, 133, 141, 156, 157, 171, 175, 184, 190 | |
| Correspondence: ... | 14, 29, 47, 61, 79, 93, 158, 168, 184 | Real Influence ... | 133 |
| Criticisms of the "Messiah" ... | 23 | Right and Wrong... .. | 139 |
| Dancing in Church ... | 168 | Rubinstein, as a Man and Artist ... | 52 |
| Dean Hole's Anecdotes ... | 63, 109 | Ruskin ... | 85 |
| Decision ... | 71 | Second-hand Orders for Sale ... | 174 |
| Defining an Anthem ... | 160 | Seeing Ourselves as Others See Us ... | 171 |
| Dogmatism ... | 104 | Self-Control ... | 185 |
| Editorial: 9, 25, 41, 57, 73, 89, 105, 121, 137, 153, 169, 185 | | Silence ... | 175 |
| Editor's Note Book: 15, 31, 46, 63, 110, 124, 159, 172 | | Something for Nothing ... | 95 |
| Elements of Wagnerism ... | 149 | The Art of Learning Music ... | 92 |
| English v. Foreign Fingering ... | 27 | The Art of Playing from Memory ... | 116 |
| English v. Foreign Conductors ... | 130 | The Descent of a Decent Musician ... | 179 |
| Examination Questions ... | 8 | The Edison Lamp ... | 121 |
| Experiences of an Organist ... | 19, 34 | The Educated Man ... | 158 |
| Extemporaneous Playing... .. | 162 | The Electric Organ ... | 132 |
| Facts and Fancies for Amateur Fiddlers ... | 37, 143 | The Girl who Plays the Piano ... | 104 |
| Failure ... | 158 | The Great Man ... | 190 |
| Favouritism ... | 152 | The Harmonium and American Organ... .. | 101 |
| Fiddle, Origin of the word ... | 41 | The Law of Right ... | 192 |
| Foraminifera and Fiddle Books ... | 103 | The Pranks of Opera Singers ... | 112 |
| Frederick the Great ... | 104 | The Real Gentleman ... | 176 |
| Gems from the Schoolroom ... | 106 | The Street Musician Abroad ... | 119 |
| Great Writers' First Attempts ... | 126 | True Beauty ... | 140 |
| Habit ... | 153 | True Realm of Women, The ... | 158 |
| Handel's "Messiah" ... | 138 | Turning Wedding Gifts into Cash ... | 106 |
| Hard to Understand ... | 176 | Tweedledum and Tweedledee ... | 40 |
| High Ideals ... | 95 | Uncommon Chords ... | 187 |
| Hollingshead's Memoirs, From ... | 172 | Under-valued Music and Musicians ... | 50 |
| Home Influence ... | 78 | What is Classical Music ... | 92 |
| Honour and Duty ... | 74 | Where was the Ear Trumpet ... | 125 |
| How to be Happy though Musical ... | 165 | Work ... | 186 |
| How "Champagne Charley" was Published ... | 174 | Wrong Notes ... | 69 |
| How to Choose Musical Instruments ... | 151, 164 | | |
| How to Make Choral Societies Pay ... | 2 | | |
| How to Play Scales ... | 56 | | |
| Hurry-Scurry ... | 140 | | |
| Impostors ... | 109 | | |
| Industry ... | 102 | | |
| Laziness ... | 142 | | |
| Maxims for Mean Men ... | 171 | | |
| "Messiah," Handel's ... | 138 | | |
| Meyer Lutz ... | 157 | | |
| Mirrors and Superstitions ... | 148 | | |
| Moral Excellence ... | 166 | | |
| Music in Theatres... .. | 42 | | |
| Music and Whitechapel Boys ... | 102 | | |

PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Brema, Marie ... | 50 |
| Brooke-Sampson, A. ... | 24 |
| Chaminade, Mdle. ... | 114 |
| De Reske, Jean ... | 152 |
| Ellicott, Miss R. ... | 98 |
| Florence, Evangeline ... | 34 |
| Hann, Wm. C. ... | 45 |
| Hengler, Miss E. M. ... | 71 |

| | PAGE | | PAGE |
|--------------------------|------|------------------------------------|------|
| Janotha, Mdle. | 2 | Starr, Mrs. Russell | 88 |
| MacCunn, Hamish | 130 | Sullivan, Sir A., Mus. Doc. | 178 |
| Martin, Dr. G. C. | 18 | Van Dyk, Hermann | 6 |
| Merrick, Dr. F. | 140 | Williams, C. Lee | 146 |
| Mills, E. P. | 58 | | |
| Payne, A. W. | 74 | | |
| Riley, Wm. | 39 | | |
| Rivarde, M. Serge | 82 | | |
| Rosenthal, Moritz... .. | 162 | | |
| Sauer, Emil | 66 | | |
| Siloti, M. Alex. | 94 | | |

MUSIC.

| | | |
|--|--------------------|-----|
| Milkmaid's Dance | (F. Merrick, Jun.) | 134 |
| Minuet for the "Messiah" Overture | (Handel) | 167 |
| Postlude | (W. D. Armstrong) | 90 |
| Responses to Commandments | (H. C. Young) | 4 |
| Slow Movement for Organ | (Haydn Grover) | 21 |



THE LAW OF RIGHT.—When the peasant mother sees one of her careless children fall into a ditch, her first proceeding is to pull him out; her second is to box his ears; her third, ordinary, to lead him carefully a little way by the hand, or send him home for the rest of the day. The child usually cries, and very often would clearly prefer remaining in the ditch; and if he understood any of the terms of politics, would certainly express resentment at the interference with his individual liberty; but the mother has done her duty. Whereas the usual call of the mother nation to any of her children, under such circumstances, has lately been nothing more than the fox-hunter's "Stay still there, I shall clear you." And if we

always *could* clear them, their requests to be left in muddy independence might be sometimes allowed by kind people, or their cries for help disdained by unkind ones. But we can't clear them. The whole nation is, in fact, bound together, as men are by ropes on a glacier—if one falls the rest must either lift him or drag him along with them as dead weight, not without much increase of danger to themselves, and the law of right being manifestly this—as, wheiher manifestly or not, it is always the law of prudence—the only question is, how this wholesome help and interference are to be administered. The first interference should be in education.—*Ruskin*.

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